

FINAL REPORT
Submitted by
THE CITY COUNCIL RENAMING COMMISSION
November 16, 2021

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Introduction

Public spaces such as streets and parks allow governments to honor and memorialize the people, places or events that contribute to the political, social and economic growth of a city, state and country. They also are a means through which a political jurisdiction can erect symbols that convey the dominance of certain ideological beliefs. For example, from the 19th through the mid-20th centuries, monuments, streets and parks in Memphis, Tennessee were closely aligned with the narratives of slavery, the Confederacy, the Lost Cause and Jim Crow-era white supremacy. The year 2013 was a pivotal year for removing symbolic representations of racist ideology in the city. In that year, three parks named for Confederate officers and generals were renamed: Confederate Park (now Memphis Fourth Bluff Park), Jefferson Davis Park (now River Garden Park) and Nathan Bedford Forrest Park (now Health Sciences Park). Statues that remained in two of the parks—Jefferson Davis in River Garden Park and Nathan Bedford Forrest in Health Sciences Park—were removed in 2017, after sale of the parks, or of interest in the parks, to a private nonprofit corporation. This movement to remove street and park names and statues that represent racist ideology is not only occurring in Memphis, but in cities in all the Southern states that were part of the Confederacy.

The Memphis City Council promotes the use of public space that embraces a common vision for the city, one that honors the contributions of all citizens, responds to dynamic change, and acknowledges the importance of varied interests. On July 21, 2020, the Memphis City Council approved a resolution “...Establishing an Advisory Committee Regarding City of Memphis Street, Park and Place Names.” This Resolution implements a new Ordinance (#5759) giving the Memphis City Council renaming powers related to street, park and place names within the City of Memphis. The Resolution calls for creation of an advisory body, the City Council Renaming Commission (CCRC or the Commission). This Commission is tasked with making three recommendations to the City Council: (1) a set of guiding principles that would govern submission and review of renaming recommendations submitted by the citizens of Memphis; (2) a list of streets, parks or places recommended for renaming; and (3) an application process that citizens can use to submit future renaming recommendations. In addition, the Ordinance requires public involvement in all aspects of the renaming process, including public education on the significance of renaming streets, parks and places; specific renaming recommendations; and public input on any proposed renaming recommendations.

The Resolution creating the Commission provided for research assistance by student interns from local colleges and universities. This included research related to the history and practice of naming public spaces (referred to as toponymy) and research on individuals after whom local parks, streets or places in Memphis were named. Due to the continuing Coronavirus pandemic this research assistance was not available. Students either were not on campus or remained in their dormitories because of restrictions imposed by local or state health authorities or local colleges and universities. In addition, physical access to certain venues in the city were limited at times. Instead, members of the Commission volunteered to conduct the research for the project, within the parameters of safety and available and accessible resources. Since events occurring during the Jim Crow era (i.e., 1877-1965) required more time and intensive library

research, results during that period are more limited. Even with these limitations, the CCRC developed a comprehensive report that complies with the Resolution's requirements.

A. Renaming Principles

A major responsibility pursuant to the Resolution was to recommend a cohesive set of principles that could guide the public's and the City Council's current and future renaming recommendations. After development of the principles, the CCRC would then develop a process the public could use to submit renaming recommendations. The CCRC adopted the following principles to recommend to the City Council:

- Streets, parks and place names should promote values shared by the entire Memphis community, such as respect, unity and diversity.
- Naming preferences initiated by neighborhood groups seeking to rename streets, parks or places in their neighborhoods should promote and preserve important neighborhood values, such as collective responsibility, friendship and sharing.
- Streets, parks, and places named for individuals or events should reflect contributions or achievements by Memphians and notable non-Memphians from all sectors of society, including activities or events related to public service and business development; religion and philanthropy; social justice and social support; music, art and city life; neighborhood identity; and state or national identity.
- Final selection of street, park or place names shall be based on the best interests of the City, as determined by the Memphis City Council. These interests include, but are not limited to, interests related to the renaming principles, planning and engineering concerns and public comments.

The Commission believes these principles will help members of the public recommend names that are both unifying and inclusive.

B. Renaming Guidelines

The Commission also developed a permanent application process that members of the public can follow in making renaming recommendations in the future (See Appendix A, Principles, Guidelines and Application Procedures). There are three basic requirements for submitting applications. First, if the recommendation is an individual's name, the individual must be deceased. However, a living individual may be recommended if the purpose is to honor a philanthropic donation. Second, members of the public must provide a "detailed reason" (if any) why a name should be replaced and why the replacement name is preferred. Lastly, the recommendation must reflect public support. This can include letters of support from community members or organizations or any other information that reflects support from the entire Memphis community or a specific neighborhood. Members of the City Council or the CCRC may submit

(a) an existing and a replacement name; (b) a preferred name to be honored without submitting an existing name to be replaced; or (c) a name that should be replaced without submitting a proposed replacement name.

C. Renaming Recommendations

1. Methodology

In conducting research on streets, parks or places for possible renaming, the Commission voted to identify (1) streets, parks or places that were named for Confederate officers, leaders, sympathizers, and events, and (2) streets, parks or places that were named for individuals who actively and/or publicly promoted racist ideology about African Americans, Native Americans or other people of color. This latter category included slave owners, elected and appointed local, state or national governmental and non-governmental leaders, and influential public figures. The CCRC's historical research included streets or parks named for individuals (or events) who primarily were active during the time period between 1819 and 1964/65. The cut-off dates of 1964/65 are the years that the United States Congress began adopting sweeping legislation that prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, sex and national origin, thus rendering unlawful existing Jim Crow laws and customs.

Since there are over 9,000 roadways or streets and over 160 parks and places in Memphis, the CCRC decided to limit its historical research to major streets and parks. These are the streets and parks that are most recognizable by the public and are frequently named for prominent individuals or events in the city, state or nation. In technical terms, major roadways or streets are classified by the city's Division of Engineering as arterial roadways. They include streets such as Union Avenue, Poplar Avenue, Winchester Road and Jackson Avenue. The major parks are technically described as regional parks, based on the classification system of the city's Division of Parks and Neighborhoods. These parks serve the entire city and surrounding areas, as opposed to a specific neighborhood or community. They include Overton Park, Audubon Park, Martin Luther King Park and Liberty Park. Given the importance of the Memphis Riverfront to the tourism industry and to citywide celebrations in Memphis, parks along the Riverfront were included in this research as well. Riverfront parks include Mud Island Park, Greenbelt Park, Ashburn-Coppock Park, Butler Park, Chickasaw Heritage Park, E.H. Crump Park, Martyrs Park, Tom Lee Park and Vance Park.

Based on available and accessible research, the Commission identified for possible replacement 15 names associated with racist ideologies. Volunteers wrote biographies of these individuals or events. The biographies included the accomplishments for which they were honored, any history of racist actions or beliefs, and other information that was relevant to interpreting their public lives (See Appendix B for both the biographies and the research sources).

The names were:

E.H. Crump (street and park)

John Overton (park)
James Winchester (street)
Andrew Jackson (street)
William E. Butler (street and park)
John James Audubon (park)
Lucius Lamar (street)
Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” Jackson (Stonewall Street)
P.G.T Beauregard (street)
Battle of Bull Run or Manassas (street)
Thomas Jefferson (street)
James Madison (street)
George Washington (street)
James Monroe (street)
Dixie (street)

2. Original Names Retained

The Commission decided to retain the names of seven persons after whom streets or parks were named, despite their record of racist ideology: Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, George Washington, James Monroe, E.H. Crump, John Overton and James Winchester. These persons engaged in extraordinary undertakings central to creating a common identity or recognizing a common humanity among all people. For example, Jefferson, Madison, Washington and Monroe helped to establish the foundational principles and rights that formed the United States of America. These principles and rights, including the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the United States Constitution, forged our common identity as residents and citizens of the United States. At the time they made these significant contributions they, unfortunately, had a morally flawed understanding of equality and inclusiveness. Over time, Congress and the courts expanded the concept of equality to clarify that all residents and citizens of the United States share that common identity, regardless of race, sex or ethnicity.

John Overton and James Winchester established and helped develop a place where individuals would have a common identity as residents of Memphis, Tennessee, including raising families, working, voting and enjoying the other benefits of residency. Overton and Winchester laid the foundation for creating that common identity, even though African Americans and other people of color had to fight for the right to be recognized as part of that common identity. Finally, E.H. Crump was a segregationist, but understood that belief in the sanctity of life is the most basic element that defines a common humanity for all people, regardless of race, sex or ethnicity. He, therefore, strongly opposed physical violence against African Americans by members of the Ku Klux Klan. In 1923, he led a massive effort to defeat successfully all but one person on a slate of Ku Klux Klan candidates who were running for political office in Memphis. To convey a comprehensive understanding of the lives of John Overton and E.H. Crump, the Commission recommends that historical markers citing both their racial history and their contributions to Memphis be placed in the parks and by statues named for them.

3. Names Recommended for Replacement

The Commission made recommendations to replace the following eight names that are attached to streets and/or parks: Andrew Jackson (Jackson Avenue), William E. Butler (Butler Street and Butler Park), Lucius Lamar (Lamar Avenue), Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson (Stonewall Street), P.G.T. Beauregard (Beauregard Street), John James Audubon (Audubon Park), the Battle of Bull Run or Manassas (Manassas Street, 2 sections) and Dixie Road. There is a clear distinction between the recommended replacement names and those not recommended for replacement. First, six of the eight names recommended to be replaced are affiliated with the Confederacy. The Commission does not support individuals who worked against the interests of the United States of America. The two remaining names—Jackson and Audubon—have specific issues detailed below.

The Commission recognizes that Andrew Jackson was also one of the founders of Memphis and was a U.S. President, positions that normally are worthy of being recognized in public spaces. However, Jackson also advocated for and signed into law the Indian Removal Act of 1830, a national policy that resulted in the forced relocation of Native Americans from southeastern areas of the country to land west of the Mississippi River. This forced relocation was characterized by death, disease, and famine, and is now referred to as the Trail of Tears. The route through Memphis, Tennessee, called the Bell Route, is one of the Federally recognized routes of the Trail of Tears that was taken by members of the Cherokee tribe during their forced relocation. Ironically, this route is now Jackson Avenue. The Commission does not consider it appropriate that Andrew Jackson, a leading advocate for the forced relocation of Native Americans, should have his name appended to one of the routes that became part of the Trail of Tears. Rather than promote a common identity or common humanity, his actions further divided the country.

The last name—John James Audubon—was recommended for replacement because Audubon did not dedicate any part of his life to promoting unity among all people. He was a slave owner; he believed in African American and Native American inferiority; and he was an opponent of the abolitionist movement. We recognize that he was a world-renowned naturalist and painter. However, we were interested in actions or beliefs that had the potential to unite people of all races and ethnicities with a common identity or a common humanity. His opposition to the abolitionist movement and promotion of white supremacist ideology illustrate his desire to maintain racial, social, civic and legal divisions among the races.

In addition to the eight names discussed above, the Commission received other recommendations from CCRC and City Council members. Three were for people or places deserving of honor without reference to any negative historical information associated with the existing name. In this regard, Commission members voted to honor Judge Teresa Jones and Ms. Ida B. Wells-Barnett. It also voted to change the name of the community center at Gaisman Park to the Memphis International Community Center, in recognition of the large Latinx population in the community that contributes to the rich diversity of Gaisman Park. As stated above, the Commission also recommends placing an historical marker next to the statues of John Overton and E.H. Crump in Overton Park, as well as a marker in Crump Park, highlighting both their history as slave owners or segregationists and their contributions to the City of Memphis. A narrative of the recommendations is outlined below.

RENAMING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY COUNCIL RENAMING COMMISSION

1. Current Name: Jackson Avenue (Andrew Jackson, 1767-1845)

In 1794 John Overton purchased the land that eventually would become Memphis, Tennessee. By agreement, half of Overton's land was purchased by Andrew Jackson, who sold part of his land to members of the Winchester family. In 1819, Overton, Jackson and James Winchester began planning for the new city of Memphis, Tennessee. By 1824, however, Jackson had sold the remaining interest in his land to John C. McLemore. By 1826, the year Memphis was incorporated by the State of Tennessee, John Overton, James Winchester and John C. McLemore owned interests in the land constituting Memphis, Tennessee. Overton, Winchester and McLemore continued to be involved extensively in Memphis' growth and development. After 1824, Andrew Jackson played no role in the growth and development of Memphis, Tennessee.

Andrew Jackson was a vocal advocate for a national policy on the relocation of Native Americans. When he became President, he signed into law the Indian Removal Act of 1830, which forced the relocation of the Southern tribes of Native Americans to land west of the Mississippi River. Thousands of Native Americans suffered and died during the march westward. This relocation is referred to as the Trail of Tears. The Bell Route, which came through Memphis, was part of the Trail of Tears taken by members of the Cherokee tribe. According to Mr. Gordon Swisher of the Trail of Tears Association, the Bell Route "came into Shelby County on Stage Road and went to Raleigh, TN. From Raleigh, they took the Old Raleigh Road to Memphis on the north side of the Fourth Chickasaw Bluff on Auction Street, where the detachment crossed the Mississippi River to Marion, Arkansas. Later, the name Old Raleigh Road was changed to Jackson Avenue."

Proposed Name: Cherokee Parkway

Jackson Avenue in Memphis, Tennessee is an important street in United States history. It is one of the routes taken by the Cherokee Indians in various southeastern states who were forced by the Indian Removal Act of 1830 to move from their ancestral homelands to land west of the Mississippi River. The entire route, known as the Trail of Tears, was marked by malnutrition, exposure, disease and death. The route that included what is currently Jackson Avenue is known as the Bell Route, led by John Bell. It is described by Mr. Graydon Swisher II, a member of the Trail of Tears Association and the Shelby County Historical Commission.

The [Bell Route] "came into Shelby County on Stage Road and went to Raleigh, TN. From Raleigh, they took the Old Raleigh Road to Memphis on the north side of the Fourth Chickasaw Bluff on Auction Street, where the detachment crossed the Mississippi River to Marion, Arkansas. Later the name Old Raleigh Road was changed to Jackson Avenue."

The routes of the Trail of Tears, which cover nine states, are now recognized by the United States government as the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

There currently is a marker along the Bell Route (Jackson Avenue) memorializing the Trail of Tears. Renaming this route Cherokee Parkway, instead of the current Jackson Avenue, is another way to acknowledge the humanity of the Cherokee Indians and their arduous journey westward. It is also a way to recognize the historical nature of the street or route itself.

2. Current Name: Lamar Avenue (Lucius Lamar, 1825-1893)

Lucius Lamar, a resident of the State of Mississippi, was an active Confederate sympathizer, officer, and official. He co-drafted the “Ordinance of Secession” from the United States of America for the State of Mississippi, became a lieutenant colonel in the Confederate army, and was appointed Confederate minister to Russia by Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. After his civil rights were restored post-Civil War, Lamar served in elected and appointed Federal positions, including the position of Associate Supreme Court Justice. Even after the Civil War, however, Lucius Lamar maintained his white supremacist views about African Americans.

Proposed Name: Vanguard Avenue

Definitions of Vanguard: A group of people leading the way in new developments or ideas. (Oxford Dictionary); the forefront of an action or movement (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

Lamar Avenue (US 78) is a major part of the freight transportation system in the United States. As such, there are numerous commercial establishments on the street that support the transportation industry. Presently, the City of Memphis is in the process of changing the use and perception of Lamar Avenue from an “auto-centric” street to a street with businesses that serve the various neighborhoods anchored by the Lamar corridor. These include the historic neighborhoods of Orange Mound, Glenview, Annesdale and Rozelle. To encourage the establishment of more community-oriented businesses along Lamar Avenue, the City Council approved a change in zoning status for the section of Lamar Avenue between South Bellevue and Prescott, which contains almost 200 parcels. The change allows for more diversity in the types of commercial establishments permitted on the street, such as restaurant, apparel, and nonprofit businesses.

The Commission proposes a new name that is consistent with the new focus and new perception of the street, while also recognizing the thoroughfare being both “auto-and-freight-centric.” We believe that the new name, “Vanguard Avenue,” accomplishes this goal. Vanguard Avenue will have an array of retail establishments that will “lead the way” or “be at the forefront” for economic and community revitalization. The new Orange Mound Tower is an example of one business that is already at the vanguard of change. Two innovative Memphians purchased the United Equipment Building, which had been closed for 20 years, and an adjacent 80,000 square foot warehouse, both on Lamar Avenue. The owners plan to build apartments in the space as well as make available commercial space for businesses related to restaurants, health and wellness, music production and the visual arts.

3. Current Name: Manassas Street (between Union Avenue and Madison Avenue) (First Battle of Bull Run or Manassas, 1861)

The Battle of Bull Run (1861) is considered the first major battle of the U.S. Civil War. It took place in Prince William County, Virginia, near the city of Manassas. President Lincoln ordered General Irvin McDowell of the Union Army to mount an offensive attack to quickly end the war. However, the Confederate soldiers won. The Confederate forces referred to the battle as the First Battle of Manassas.

Proposed Name: Black Lives Matter Street

Black Lives Matter Street is an appropriate name for the section of Manassas Street bordering Health Sciences Park. This name symbolically changes the public profile of a geographic area of the city that once perpetuated in public space the notion that Black lives did not matter. Health Sciences Park's original name was Nathan Bedford Forrest Park. Nathan Bedford Forrest, whose statue was removed from the park in 2017, was a slave owner, slave trader, Civil War General and founder of the Ku Klux Klan, all titles that generated disrespect for, and negative actions toward, African Americans. Additionally, the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) represented maintaining the institution of slavery, and, like the statue, a street named Manassas Avenue that bordered the former Forrest Park also helped to perpetuate a public declaration that Black lives do not matter. It is now a moral imperative to symbolically disabuse these nefarious beliefs and actions by declaring in that same geographic area that Black Lives Matter.

4. Current Name: Audubon Park (John James Audubon, 1785-1851)

John James Audubon was an internationally known naturalist and artist who documented and painted the birds of America. He authored a famous book entitled *The Birds of America*. Notwithstanding, Audubon was a slave owner who considered both African Americans and Native Americans as inferior persons. He was also an opponent of the abolitionist movement, the major movement organized by a group of Black and White Americans to end slavery in the United States. In October 2021, the Audubon Naturalist Society, a 124-year-old organization of environmentalists, voted to remove the name Audubon from its official organizational title because of Audubon's association with slavery. The news release stated, in part: "The deliberate and thoughtful decision to change our name is part of our ongoing commitment to creating a larger and more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it."

Proposed Name: Miriam DeCosta-Willis Park (In honor of Dr. Miriam DeCosta-Willis)

Dr. Miriam DeCosta-Willis (1934-2020), an African American scholar and advocate for justice and equality, was a native of Florence, Alabama. She spent most of her adult life in Memphis, Tennessee, both as a university professor helping to educate tomorrow's youth and as a civil rights advocate seeking to eliminate racial discrimination against African Americans. In reviewing her professional life, Dr. DeCosta-Willis' dedication to rigorous academic scholarship began while she was still a college student. She received a bachelor's degree in Spanish from

Wellesley College, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa; and, in 1967, she was awarded a Ph.D. degree in Romance Languages from Johns Hopkins University. After marrying her then-husband, Russell Sugarmon of Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. DeCosta-Willis moved to Memphis and began her career in academia in 1957 at LeMoyne College and Owen College. In 1966, she became the first African American faculty member at Memphis State University (now the University of Memphis), eventually becoming an Associate Professor of Spanish. Upon leaving Memphis State University in the late 1960s, Dr. DeCosta-Willis held a series of prestigious academic and administrative positions at various colleges and universities, including Howard University, George Mason University, the University of Maryland (Baltimore) and, again, at LeMoyne-Owen College and the University of Memphis. Her scholarly research was in Afro-Hispanic, African American and Latin American literature and culture. Her scholarly research includes publishing or editing books, book chapters, articles and book reviews.

After retiring from university life, Dr. DeCosta-Willis settled in her adopted home of Memphis, Tennessee. In fact, she contributed to research on the history of Memphis, Tennessee by writing two books on African Americans in Memphis: Notable Black Memphians (2008, reprinted in 2020) and Black Memphis Landmarks (2010). In 2018, the Memphis organization Women of Achievement honored her with the Women of Achievement Award in Steadfastness for her “lifetime of achievement.” Her public service to Tennessee and Memphis includes memberships on the Tennessee Humanities Council, the Federation of State Humanities Councils, the University of Memphis Center for Research on Women, the Shelby County Historical Commission and the Memphis Chapter of the NAACP.

Although Dr. DeCosta-Willis’ academic and professional achievements as an African American woman are notable, the essence of her life was not one of personal success or achievement. She was a humanitarian who believed in and fought for equal justice for all. And while her parents were well-educated, she and her family still encountered the societal discrimination that all African Americans faced as they sought to create a better life for themselves. For example, Dr. DeCosta-Willis applied for and was denied admission into Memphis State University’s graduate program in Romance Languages in 1957 because the university did not accept African Americans at that time. *It is worth repeating* that she later became the first African American professor at the University of Memphis. Despite her ultimate success in attaining her personal goals, she was keenly aware that the majority of African Americans faced even greater obstacles than she faced in obtaining basic rights and services, including the right to vote, equal education and employment opportunities and adequate health care. Thus, as she pursued her own dreams, Dr. DeCosta-Willis simultaneously fought for rights and opportunities for all people of color.

As a young person she marched with her mother during the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott. Much of her civil rights activity occurred in Memphis, where she was jailed for participating in civil rights demonstrations. As chair of the Memphis NAACP’s Education

Committee, she also led a boycott of local public schools in the 1960s, in order to pressure the school board to provide equal educational opportunities for African American children.

Dr. DeCosta-Willis is recognized professionally for her scholarly work in African American and Latin American literature and culture. She believed that all residents of the City of Memphis also had a right to pursue and achieve their personal and professional goals; and she worked to ensure that discrimination and prejudice were not impediments to their pursuits. Her professional and humanitarian contributions to higher education, to civil rights and to this city's history continue to enrich Memphis.

5. Current Name: a. Butler Park (Dr. William E. Butler, 1790-1882)

b. Butler Avenue (Dr. William E. Butler)

Dr. William E. Butler was the founder of, and a resident of, Jackson, Tennessee. He purchased and sold land in Memphis in the 1820s. He was a "Confederate sympathizer" who actively "equipped and maintained" Confederate soldiers from the 6th Tennessee Regiment" in Jackson, Tennessee during the Civil War. Dr. Butler preferred settling in Jackson, Tennessee over Memphis. He believed that the Jackson, Tennessee area was more conducive to business activity and development.

Proposed Name: a. Joyce Blackmon Park (In honor of Ms. Joyce Blackmon)

b. Joyce Blackmon Avenue (In honor of Ms. Joyce Blackmon)

Joyce Blackmon (1939-2020) was born in Memphis, Tennessee and pursued her undergraduate and graduate degrees in education and counseling at the University of Memphis. She spent over twenty years as a guidance counselor at legacy Memphis City Schools, but later accepted the challenge to make even greater contributions to the City of Memphis. Ms. Blackmon's work in Memphis is a model for understanding the meaning of public service: She pursued the common good for all Memphians. She contributed to the City's well-being both professionally and as a model volunteer.

Professionally, Ms. Blackmon was the first African American and the first woman to become a vice-president at Memphis Light, Gas and Water, breaking the glass ceiling for others who would follow her. As a volunteer, she and a group of women from various racial and religious backgrounds played a major role in reducing racial tensions in Memphis after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Ms. Blackmon was one of five women who founded the Memphis Chapter of the Panel of American Women. This group of women met with civic and religious organizations at schools, churches and other locations to have open dialogue about prejudice and discrimination. They led discussions with various multi-racial and multi-ethnic groups to encourage attendees to discuss and resolve among themselves sensitive issues related to race and religion. Their efforts led to a greater focus on citywide initiatives on understanding and appreciating racial and religious diversity (The other four founders of the Memphis Chapter of the

Panel on American Women were Happy Jones, Modean Thompson, Jeanne Varnell and Jocelyn Wurtzburg).

Ms. Blackmon engaged in other civic activities that reflected her desire to support and serve others for the common good. She was a past chairman of Memphis in May, and served on the boards of Girls, Inc., Goodwill Industries, the Memphis Urban League and the Memphis Black Arts Alliance. In honor of her involvement in and appreciation for the arts, an arts fellowship was established in her name at the Brooks Museum of Art: The Joyce Blackmon Curatorial Fellowship in African American Art and Art of the African Diaspora.

Ms. Blackmon's civic and professional life was a life of service. Her desire was to bring out the best in others, and, collectively, create a better Memphis.

6. Current Name: Stonewall Street (Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, 1824-1863)

General Stonewall Jackson was a general in the Confederate army. He successfully commanded a brigade at the first Battle of Bull Run and eventually became one of the most successful generals in the Confederacy.

Proposed Name: Initial recommendation by the surrounding residential community

7. Current Name: Beauregard Avenue (P.G.T. Beauregard, 1818-1893)

General P.G.T. Beauregard was a Confederate general. He led the attack on Fort Sumter in South Carolina, which was the attack that started the Civil War.

Proposed Name: Initial recommendation by the surrounding residential community

8. Current Name: Manassas Street (excluding the section between Union Avenue and Madison Avenue; See #3 above) (First Battle of Bull Run or Manassas, 1861)

The Battle of Bull Run is considered the first major land battle of the U.S. Civil War. It took place in Prince William County, Virginia, near the city of Manassas. President Lincoln ordered General Irvin McDowell of the Union Army to mount an offensive attack to quickly end the war. However, the Confederate soldiers won. The Confederate forces referred to the battle as the First Battle of Manassas.

Proposed Name: Initial recommendation by the surrounding residential community

9. Current Name: Dixie Road

Dixie is the name that generally refers to the Southern United States, especially the culture of the South after the Civil War that institutionalized racism and prejudice.

Proposed Name: Initial recommendation by the surrounding residential community

10. Current Name: Bellevue Tennis Center at Jesse Turner Park

Proposed Name: Teresa Jones Tennis Center (in honor of Judge Teresa Jones)

Judge Teresa Jones (1960-2021) was one of Memphis' distinguished public servants. Her intelligence, her integrity and her prudence were her defining qualities, regardless of the position she held. Judge Jones received a B.A. in Communications and Business from Lane College and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Memphis law school. Judge Jones performed at the highest level of achievement during her legal and public service careers. She was chief prosecutor for the City of Memphis and was later appointed, and then elected, as Judge for Division 1 of the Memphis Municipal Court. In addition to performing judicial duties, she was a school board member at Legacy Memphis City Schools (and Shelby County Schools) for 8 years, including two years as Board chair.

Judge Jones gave willingly of her time to support other important causes. She served on the Lane College Board of Trustees and on the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation. She was also an adjunct professor of law at the University of Memphis law school.

Despite having an active public life, Judge Jones still found time for her personal passion: She was an avid, competitive tennis player, and was an active member of the American Tennis Association. It is fitting that she found a passion that could relieve her of her major, and sometimes stressful, commitments to public service.

11. Current Name: Gaisman Community Center at Gaisman Park

Proposed Name: Memphis International Community Center

The CCRC recommends changing the name of the Gaisman Community Center to the Memphis International Community Center to highlight the diverse Latinx cultures within the community surrounding Gaisman Park and to inform the entire Memphis community that the community center at Gaisman Park is an ideal place to learn about and celebrate the various cultures represented in this city. The Latinx population in zip code 38122, the zip code within which Gaisman Park is located, is 22.1% of the total population in that zip code. This is the highest of any zip code in the city. The Latinx population represents various countries in Latin America, including Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala, Venezuela and Honduras. While there are some common cultural traditions among these countries, each one possesses unique national traditions, resulting in zip code 38122 becoming an international enclave within a racially and ethnically

diverse city. Through a focus on the international aspects of the Gaisman Park community, all Memphians could learn about cultural activities and traditions from other countries that contribute to this city's diversity, leading to a deeper appreciation of and respect for this city's multicultural populations.

In presenting this recommendation, the CCRC recognizes that the City of Memphis is renowned for its celebration of the rich cultural heritage of the various nationalities and racial/ethnic groups represented in the city's population and in the world. Memphis cultural festivals include the Italian Festival (Marquette Park), the Greek Festival (Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church), the Juneteenth Celebration (Health Sciences and Douglass Parks), the Latino Memphis Festival (Overton Park), the Memphis in May International Festival (Tom Lee Park; various countries), Africa in April (Robert R. Church Park), and the Japanese Festival (Memphis Botanic Garden). Although these celebrations are held only once per year, they foster an appreciation of the people and cultures that contribute to the unity and vibrancy of our city and country. Therefore, the Commission seeks to present an idea related to the renaming and administration of the community center space: a vision establishing a permanent "Memphis International Community Center" (MICC) within the Memphis Parks System. This intercultural center would extend the City of Memphis' appreciation and recognition of international cultural traditions from a series of annual events and activities to a permanent program of year-round events and activities highlighting international cultural traditions.

In addition to continuing the annual events sponsored by the various parks and churches, the proposed citywide MICC Center would plan, implement and host international events and activities that all residents of Memphis can enjoy on a permanent, year-round basis. This would allow a focus on cultural traditions from other international groups represented in the city, such as Asian cultural traditions. The center could sponsor such activities as weekly or monthly classes in conversational Spanish; in Japanese flower arrangement (Ikebana); in Asian or Caribbean cooking; in Latin music; in salsa, tango, or Irish step dancing; or in African art. Annual events could include holiday traditions around the world, or an international food or art festival. This idea would expand the proposed MICC at Gaisman Park to serving two communities: the community that is traditionally served by the park, and the entire Memphis community for intercultural programs, activities, and enrichment.

12. Current Name: Fourth Street (from Crump Avenue to Beale Street)

Proposed Name: Ida B. Wells-Barnett Street

Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862-1931) was an educator, journalist, civil rights activist and women's rights activist. She was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi and attended Rust College. Upon the death of her parents, she moved to Memphis, Tennessee to support herself and her siblings. Although she started working as a teacher in Memphis, the city is also where she began her lifelong career in investigative journalism and civil rights advocacy. Ms. Wells-Barnett started working as a journalist for various local and national African American newspapers and began writing "controversial" articles on the violence and prejudice that existed during the Jim Crow era.

After observing the brutal killing of three African American men by a White mob in Memphis, Ms. Wells-Barnett began her life-long crusade of documenting and writing articles and editorials on the killing and lynching of African American men throughout the South. She eventually published a pamphlet---*The Red Record*---on lynching and violence against African Americans since slavery. After a White mob destroyed the building where her newspaper was located, Ms. Wells-Barnett left Memphis and relocated to Chicago, Illinois. However, she continued to write and lecture about lynching and other atrocities directed at African Americans. In 2020 she was awarded a Pulitzer Prize special citation “[f]or her outstanding and courageous reporting on the horrific and vicious violence against African Americans during the era of lynching.” (*Wikipedia*)

There were many dimensions to Ms. Wells-Barnett’s life. She continued her career as a civil rights crusader, but also became involved in other important social issues, such as women’s rights. Ms. Wells-Barnett and a White female colleague organized the Alpha Suffrage Club in Chicago, which focused on voting rights and political participation by African American women. She also participated in the national women’s suffrage movement, challenging the national movement to become more inclusive. Finally, Ms. Wells-Barnett and her husband organized the National Fellowship League, an organization to support African American men who needed housing or other support or who were seeking employment opportunities. Numerous awards have been created by various organizations in the name of Ida B. Wells-Barnett, and she was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 1988.

Ida B. Wells-Barnett was courageous, persistent, analytical and inquisitive, qualities that were necessary for the deep commitment to justice and equality that she exhibited during her lifetime. In 2021, the City of Memphis recognized her contributions and achievements by authorizing the placement of a statue of her in one of the City’s public spaces, located at the corner of Fourth Street and Beale Street – the site of her newspaper office and printing presses.

13. Historical Place Markers for John Overton and Mayor E.H. Crump

The CCRC recommends that historical markers be placed beside the statues of John Overton and E.H. Crump in Overton Park and that a marker for E.H. Crump be placed at the site of Crump Park. The marker for John Overton would reflect both his history as a co-founder of the City of Memphis and his life as a slave owner. The marker for Mayor E.H. Crump would reflect both his political influence and dominance in Memphis and his active support of segregation.

D. Education and Community Engagement

The Commission worked continuously to inform the Memphis community of the substance and significance of its work and to ensure that the community had opportunities to provide feedback on the Commission's work. First, it provided periodic public education sessions to Commission members and members of the listening and viewing public who observed the Commission's virtual meetings. For example, at the beginning of this project, the Education Subcommittee provided a general overview of the topic of access to public spaces. That presentation discussed the importance of public space to the life of a city, the historical significance of public space in Southern cities during the post-Civil War era, and the national trend of eliminating representations of the Confederacy in public spaces. Later in the project, members of the Education Subcommittee reported on the experiences of other cities and states in eliminating monuments, streets and other representations of slavery and the Civil War. The Commission also provided an email address that the public could access to comment on its work.

After the Commission completed its recommendations, it presented its Initial Report to the Memphis community. The Commission held two virtual neighborhood town hall meetings to educate the public on the city's new renaming Ordinance, to discuss the Initial Report with citizens, and to receive feedback from the community on the Commission's renaming recommendations. The meetings, sponsored by Kudzukian, were available on YouTube and Facebook. During the virtual meetings, comments were received via YouTube, email and Facebook. Commission members had lively and timely interactions with citizens. The public was also given access to the renaming principles and the application process and form that citizens can use to submit renaming recommendations.

E. Recommendations

The Commission completed the three core requirements of the Resolution within the twelve-month allocated time period, which expired in October 2021. The Commission developed new renaming principles and application guidelines; submitted renaming recommendations; and submitted an Initial Report to the Memphis community, including receiving input from the public on the report. Due to the time allocated for the work, plus restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the Commission was not able to complete important work for two mini-projects related to the renaming recommendations.

Neighborhood Streets

The Commission no longer has the authority to convene neighborhood meetings in the residential areas where streets are recommended for renaming. The streets are: Stonewall Street, Beauregard Street, a section of Manassas Street, and Dixie Road. In this report, the Commission recommended that residents of the neighborhoods where these streets are located play the primary role in renaming these streets. This requires identifying and sending notices about the renaming application process to residents of the affected communities, contacting any relevant neighborhood associations, and having a series of meetings with neighborhood residents. This project can occur

only if the City Council approves the recommended changes. However, City Council's actions will occur outside the allotted time period of the Commission's existence.

First Responders

Since the renaming process can apply to recommendations from any interested individual or organization, we received information that the Memphis Police Department had problems with some streets that had the same or similar names. These names have caused complications in responding to the correct location when citizens need assistance. In correspondence with Commission member Mr. Luis Garcia, Assistant Police Chief Don Crowe requested Commission review of the following street names:

Long Street
Longstreet Drive
East Street
East Drive
Dexter Road
Dexter Lane
Navaho Lane
Navaho Avenue
Oakwood Street
Oakwood Drive

Resolution of this type of renaming issue involves additional interactions with the Memphis Police Department and with residents of the affected communities. This is an effort that is worthy of pursuit, since it involves the safety of citizens. However, this task could not be completed within the allotted time.

There, undoubtedly, could be other issues that would emerge as this new renaming responsibility evolves. Although the one-year allocated time period of the Commission produced significant results, our experience indicates that a more fluid, on-going process is needed to respond to the various issues that could emerge in implementing a new Ordinance. Of particular interest is allowing residential neighborhoods affected by street renaming the time to submit their own renaming suggestions. Considering this background, the Commission makes the following recommendations going forward:

CCRC Recommendation 1. Develop an internal administrative process for receiving and reviewing requests to rename streets, parks and places. This process would eliminate the need to reconstitute the Commission. Instead, it would be a permanent, on-going process that citizens can invoke at any time. The Renaming Guidelines would then be adapted to the new process.

CCRC Recommendation 2. If the above recommendation on Neighborhood Streets is adopted, notify the communities of the work of the Commission and give appropriate community organizations a specific time period for submitting renaming recommendations.

CCRC Recommendation 3. If the above recommendation on First Responders is adopted, appoint an interagency committee to implement the recommendation. The committee would reach out to the affected neighborhoods to recommend appropriate name changes.

APPENDIX A: Renaming Principles, Guidelines and Application Procedures



CITY COUNCIL RENAMING COMMISSION

RENAMING PRINCIPLES, GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES

I. Renaming Principles

- A. Streets, parks and place names should promote values shared by the Memphis community, such as respect, unity and diversity.
- B. Naming preferences initiated by neighborhood groups seeking to rename streets, parks or places in their neighborhoods should promote and preserve important neighborhood values, such as collective responsibility, friendship and sharing.
- C. Streets, parks and places named for individuals or events should reflect contributions or achievements by Memphians or non-Memphians from all sectors of society, including activities or events related to public service and business development; religion and philanthropy; social justice and social support; music, art and city life; neighborhood identity; and state or national identity.
- D. Final selection of street, park and place names shall be based on the best interests of the City, as determined by the Memphis City Council. These interests include, but are not limited to, interests related to the renaming principles, planning and engineering concerns and public comments.

II. Renaming Guidelines

A. Appropriate Names

Streets, parks and places can be named for historical figures or events, individuals who have excelled in their fields or made significant contributions to the city, state or nation; contemporary cultural events; geographic locations or markers; environmental

features; or any other category consistent with the renaming principles. The *Street Naming Guide for Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee*, as prepared by the City of Memphis' Engineering Division, shall be followed as close as practicable when making recommendations on any street renaming.

B. Living vs. Deceased Persons

If the proposed name is an individual, the person must be deceased, except parks or places may be renamed for living individuals in circumstances where the purpose of the renaming is to honor a philanthropic donation to the park or place.

III. Application Procedures

A. Applications from the public. The application procedures for submitting recommendations initiated by members of the public are listed below.

1. Submit a written narrative (a) identifying the original street, park or place name and, if applicable, the specific reason it should be replaced; and (b) providing the justification for the specific replacement name. The narrative should be submitted to the Chair of the CCRC at the Memphis City Council Office either electronically at ccrc@memphistn.gov or physically to City Hall, 125 N. Main Street, Suite 514, Memphis, TN 38103.
2. Submit proof of community support for the replacement name (e.g., letters from individuals, groups or organizations, signed petitions).
3. If the replacement name is an individual from Memphis, submit proof that the individual's family has been consulted. An application is not deemed incomplete if it lacks this information; furthermore, this requirement may be waived on a case-by-case basis by the Naming Criteria Subcommittee.
4. After the application is received, it shall be forwarded to the Research Subcommittee.

B. Recommendations from members of the Memphis City Council and CCRC

1. General recommendations. Any member of the Memphis City Council or the CCRC may submit to the CCRC Chair written recommendations for renaming any street, park or place he or she chooses, including the reason, if any, for the renaming and a justification for selecting the replacement

name. These recommendations may fall into any of the following three classifications:

- i. The name of an existing street, park or place (EN) to be changed but no proposed name (PN) to apply to that EN;
- ii. An EN with a designated PN;
- iii. A PN without a designated EN.

The CCRC Chair shall submit these recommendations to the Research Subcommittee, which shall review the recommendation as an application.

2. Recommendations from the Research Subcommittee

- i. On a recurring basis, the Research Subcommittee shall forward the Naming Criteria Subcommittee a list of street, park and place names eligible for renaming under the Principles and Guidelines listed above, prioritizing those streets, parks and places named after Confederate officers, Confederate sympathizers, persons who have publicly promoted racist views or other individuals, causes or events that most contradict these Principles and Guidelines.
- ii. The Research Subcommittee shall also forward the Naming Criteria Subcommittee a list of streets that, due to an existing disjointed naming protocol or other abnormality, interferes with the efficient functioning of the City's fire, police and emergency personnel. The list will include evidence supporting the Research Subcommittee's determination of this safety interference for each street.

C. Subcommittee Review

1. The Research Subcommittee shall research both the existing and proposed names included in the application for compliance with the Renaming Principles and Guidelines. The Subcommittee shall forward its findings, along with the application, to the Naming Criteria Subcommittee.
2. The Naming Criteria Subcommittee shall review the applications to ensure compliance with the Application Procedures listed above. The Naming Criteria Subcommittee may utilize the eligibility lists generated by the

Research Subcommittee referenced in Sub-Section III.B.2 above for those applications involving ENs deemed ineligible to be changed under the Principles and Guidelines listed above and for those applications without an EN.

3. Upon completion of its review, the Naming Criteria Subcommittee shall forward its recommendation to the Commission.

D. Commission Review

An interim report will be conducted for each application forwarded to the Commission. This report will be shared with individuals, organizations, groups and agencies for public comment. The Commission shall conduct a public hearing on each application, to be held no earlier than ten days after the interim report is published for public comment. Upon the close of the public hearing, the Commission shall recommend approval, conditional approval or rejection of the application, or hold the matter in abeyance until some future meeting. All recommendations shall be forwarded, along with a final report, to the Memphis City Council, for action. The final report shall include the recommendation of the Commission and will indicate whether the application or request was submitted by a member of the public, by a member of the Memphis City Council or CCRC, or by the Research Subcommittee. The Commission shall make every effort to send its recommendations to the Memphis City Council in groups rather than individually. The Memphis City Council shall make the final decision to name or rename a street, park or place. The interim and final reports shall follow the format and contain the content as prescribed by Ordinance No. 5759 that created the City Council Renaming Commission.

E. Sunset

The CCRC operates under a sunset provision as approved by the Memphis City Council. No action shall be taken on applications submitted after September 27, 2021, unless the sunset provision is extended by the Memphis City Council.

APPENDIX B: Biographies of Individuals or Places Considered for Replacement

Biographies

1. Edmund Hull Crump (1874-1954): Mayor of Memphis and Political Power Broker; segregationist

E.H. Crump was one of the most influential politicians and power brokers in the history of Memphis. He was also a segregationist who opposed the integration of parks, movie theatres and other public accommodations. He openly criticized African American leaders in Memphis who advocated for racial equality and blocked pro-civil rights leaders from speaking in Memphis (e.g., A. Phillip Randolph).

Mayor Crump also acted to support African American citizens at critical times. Since African Americans were not allowed to have picnics in Overton Park, Crump actively supported efforts by a group of African American citizens to establish a separate park for African Americans, despite opposition or disregard by members of the Park Commission and other public officials. In 1913, the Frederick Douglass Park was established, becoming the first municipal park for African Americans in Memphis, Tennessee. Crump was also a strong opponent of the Ku Klux Klan and vigorously fought against a slate of Ku Klux Klan candidates who were running for public office in 1923 in Memphis. All but one of the candidates were defeated.

A park and a street in the city are named for E.H. Crump. There is also a statue of him in Overton Park.

Sources:

- a. Beverly Bond and Janann Sherman, Memphis in Black and White, (South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2003).
- b. Miriam DeCosta-Willis, Black Memphis Landmarks, (Jonesboro: GrantHouse Publishers, 2010).
- c. G. Wayne Dowdy, A Brief History of Memphis, (Charleston, S.C.: The History Press, 2011).
- d. Otis Sanford, From Boss Crump to King Willie: How Race Changed Memphis Politics, (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2017).
- e. Lamar Whitlow Bridges, "Editor Mooney Versus Boss Crump," (1966), West Tennessee Historical Society Papers 1947-2015.

2. John Overton (1766-1833): Founder of Memphis, Tennessee; slave owner

In 1794 John Overton purchased the land that eventually would become Memphis, Tennessee. By agreement, half of Overton's land was purchased by Andrew Jackson, who sold part of his land to members of the Winchester family. In 1819, Overton, Jackson and James Winchester began planning for the new city of Memphis, Tennessee. By 1824, however, Jackson had sold the remaining interest in his land to John C. McLemore. By 1826, the year Memphis was incorporated by the State of Tennessee, John Overton, James Winchester and John C. McLemore owned interests in land constituting Memphis, Tennessee. Overton, Winchester and McLemore continued to be involved extensively in Memphis' growth and development. Two of Overton's descendants became mayors of the city.

Overton Park is named for John Overton. There is a statue of him in the park.

Sources:

- a. Beverly Bond and Janann Sherman, Memphis in Black and White, (South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2003).
- b. Storyboard Memphis (@storyboardmemphis.org), *Union Avenue Anthology, Part I, The Plan of Memphis: 1783-1827*.
- c. John Overton, *Wikipedia.org*

3. James Winchester (1752-1826): Founder of Memphis, Tennessee; slave owner

In 1794 John Overton purchased the land that eventually would become Memphis, Tennessee. By agreement, half of Overton's land was purchased by Andrew Jackson, who sold part of his land to members of the Winchester family. In 1819, Overton, Jackson and James Winchester began planning for the new city of Memphis, Tennessee. By 1824, however, Jackson had sold the remaining interest in his land to John C. McLemore. By 1826, the year Memphis was incorporated by the State of Tennessee, John Overton, James Winchester and John C. McLemore owned interests in land constituting Memphis, Tennessee. Overton, Winchester and McLemore continued to be involved extensively in Memphis' growth and development. James Winchester's son Marcus was the first mayor of Memphis.

Winchester Road is named for James Winchester.

Sources:

- a. Beverly Bond and Janann Sherman, Memphis in Black and White, (South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2003).
- b. Storyboard Memphis (@storyboardmemphis.org), *Union Avenue Anthology, Part I, The Plan of Memphis: 1783-1827*.

4. Andrew Jackson (1767-1845): Founder of Memphis, Tennessee; President of the United States; slave owner; leading proponent of Native American relocation

In 1794 John Overton purchased the land that eventually would become Memphis, Tennessee. By agreement, half of Overton's land was purchased by Andrew Jackson, who sold part of his land to members of the Winchester family. In 1819, Overton, Jackson and James Winchester began planning for the new city of Memphis, Tennessee. By 1824, however, Jackson had sold the remaining interest in his land to John C. McLemore. By 1826, the year Memphis was incorporated by the State of Tennessee, John Overton, James Winchester and John C. McLemore owned interests in land constituting Memphis, Tennessee. Overton, Winchester and McLemore continued to be involved extensively in Memphis' growth and development. After 1824, Andrew Jackson played no role in the growth and development of Memphis, Tennessee.

Andrew Jackson was a vocal advocate for a national policy on the relocation of Native Americans. When he became President, he signed into law the Indian Removal Act of 1830, which forced the relocation of the Southern tribes of Native Americans to land west of the Mississippi River. Thousands of Native Americans suffered and died during the march westward. This

relocation is referred to as the Trail of Tears. The Bell Route, which came through Memphis, was part of the Trail of Tears taken by members of the Cherokee tribe. According to Mr. Gordon Swisher of the Trail of Tears Association, the Bell Route “came into Shelby County on Stage Road and went to Raleigh, TN. From Raleigh, they took the Old Raleigh Road to Memphis on the north side of the Fourth Chickasaw Bluff on Auction Street, where the detachment crossed the Mississippi River to Marion, Arkansas. Later the name Old Raleigh Road was changed to Jackson Ave.”

Jackson Avenue is named for Andrew Jackson.

Sources:

- a. Beverly Bond and Janann Sherman, Memphis in Black and White, (South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2003).
- b. Storyboard Memphis (@storyboardmemphis.org.), *Union Avenue Anthology, Part I, The Plan of Memphis: 1783-1827*.
- c. Andrew Jackson, *Wikipedia.org*
- d. Andrew Jackson, *History.com*
- e. Email communication from Mr. Gordon Swisher, member of the Trail of Tears Association and the Shelby County Historical Commission, to Mr. Ben Jabbour, member, City Council Renaming Commission, March 5, 2021.

5. Dr. William E. Butler (1790-1882): Founder of Jackson, Tennessee; Confederate sympathizer

Dr. Butler purchased and sold land in Memphis in the 1820s. He was the founder of, and a resident of, Jackson, Tennessee. He was a “Confederate sympathizer” who actively “equipped and maintained” Confederate soldiers from the 6th Tennessee Regiment” in Jackson, Tennessee during the Civil War. Dr. Butler preferred settling in Jackson, Tennessee over Memphis. He believed that the Jackson, Tennessee area was more conducive to business activity and development.

Butler Park and Butler Street are named for Dr. William E. Butler.

Sources:

- a. Paul Coppock, “History in Memphis Street Names,” (1957), West Tennessee Historical Society Papers.
- b. Johnson, Seal. “Dr. William Edward Butler: Founder of the City of Jackson,” in Smith, Jonathan. *Magisterial Resolutions of Respect and Other Records*, Jackson, TN, 1996, *tngenweb.org*

6. John James Audubon (1785-1851): Naturalist and painter; slave owner

John James Audubon was an internationally known naturalist and artist who documented and painted the birds of America. He authored a famous book entitled *The Birds of America*. Audubon was a slave owner who considered both African American and Native Americans as inferior persons. He was also an opponent of the abolitionist movement, the major movement organized by a group of Black and White Americans to end slavery in the United States.

In October 2021, the Audubon Naturalist Society, a 124-year-old organization of environmentalists, voted to remove the name Audubon from its official organizational title because of Audubon's association with slavery. The news release stated, in part: "The deliberate and thoughtful decision to change our name is part of our ongoing commitment to creating a larger and more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it."

Audubon Park is named for John James Audubon.

Sources:

- a. Gregory Nobles, "The Myth of John James Audubon," audubon.org/news/the-myth-john-james-audubon
- b. J. Drew Lanham, "What do we do about John James Audubon," Audubon Magazine, Spring 2021.
- c. Press Statement, "Audubon Naturalist Society Announces Decision to Change its Name," October 22, 2021, anshome.org

7. Lucius Lamar (1825-1893): Confederate sympathizer, Confederate officer and Confederate official; U.S. congressmen, U.S. Senator, Secretary of the Interior, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice

Lucius Lamar, a resident of the State of Mississippi, was an active Confederate sympathizer, officer, and official. He co-drafted the "Ordinance of Succession" from the United States of America for the State of Mississippi, became a lieutenant colonel in the Confederate army, and was appointed Confederate minister to Russia by Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. After his civil rights were restored post-Civil War, Lamar served in elected and appointed Federal positions, including the position of Associate Supreme Court Justice. Even after the Civil War, however, Lucius Lamar maintained his white supremacist views about African Americans.

Lamar Avenue is named for Lucius Lamar.

Sources:

- a. Paul Coppock, "History in Memphis Street Names," (1957), West Tennessee Historical Society Papers.
- b. Lamar, Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus (2006), In M.I. Urofsky (Ed.), *Biographical encyclopedia of the Supreme Court*. library.cqpress.com
- c. Lucius Lamar, Wikipedia.org

8. Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson (1824-1863): Confederate general

Stonewall Jackson served as a general in the Confederate army. General Jackson successfully commanded a brigade at the First Battle of Bull Run and eventually became one of the most successful generals in the Confederacy.

Stonewall Avenue is named for Stonewall Jackson.

Sources:

- a. Stonewall Jackson, American Battlefield Trust, *battlefields.org*
- b. Stonewall Jackson, *History.com*

9. Pierre Gustav Toutant-Beauregard (1818-1893): Confederate general

General Beauregard led the attack on Fort Sumter in South Carolina, which marked the beginning of the Civil War.

Beauregard Street is named for P.G.T. Beauregard.

Sources:

- a. P.G.T. Beauregard, American Battlefield Trust, *Battlefields.org*
- b. Pierre Gustav Toutant-Beauregard, *History.com*

10. First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas, 1861): Civil War battle

The Battle of Bull Run (i.e., Manassas) is considered the first major land battle of the U.S. Civil War. It took place on July 21, 1861 in Prince William County Virginia. President Lincoln ordered General Irvin McDowell of the Union Army to mount an offensive attack to quickly end the war. However, the Confederate soldiers won. The Confederate forces referred to the battle as the First Battle of Manassas.

Manassas Street is named for the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas).

Sources:

- a. Battle of Bull Run, *History.com*
- b. Battle of Bull Run, *Wikipedia.org*

11-14. George Washington (1732-1799); Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826); James Madison (1751-1836); and James Monroe (1758-1831): Presidents of the United States; slave owners

These presidents were some of the country's Founding Fathers. They played pivotal roles in the United States gaining its independence as a nation and in establishing the country's democratic form of government. Their contributions included:

- i. George Washington: Presided over the First Constitutional Convention that drafted the Constitution of the United States; first President of the United States of America
- ii. Thomas Jefferson: Drafted the Declaration of Independence; third President of the United States of America
- iii. James Madison: Developed many of the ideas that led to the development of the United States Constitution; wrote essays supporting ratification of the Constitution; helped draft the Bill of Rights; fourth President of the United States of America

- iv. James Monroe: Established the sovereignty of the American continent through the Monroe Doctrine; fifth President of the United States of America

Sources:

- a. George Washington, *History.com*
- b. Thomas Jefferson, *History.com*
- c. James Madison, *History.com*
- d. James Monroe, *History.com*

15. Dixie: Symbol of the South

The word Dixie is a general name for the Southern states that joined the Confederacy during the Civil War. Used after the Civil War, it denotes pride in a Southern way of life that promoted racial segregation and white supremacist ideology.

Sources:

- a. Dixie, *History.com*
- b. Dixie, *Wikipedia.org*